

the edema is the main feature. Cassirer therefore makes two groups; in one he puts the cases in which the edema appears as a toxic, auto-toxic or infectious process, has an acute commencement, and is of short duration, like an intoxication or infection; and has no tendency to recur unless produced by the same causes operating again. This form is closely related to urticaria and purpura. In the second group he places the cases in which there is a direct or indirect heredity, nervous symptoms are prominent, and the attacks return with regularity and are independent of external causes. These two forms cannot be always sharply separated from one another. The treatment of acute circumscribed edema, if it occurs in connection with some other disease, consists in the treatment of the latter; the food that has a tendency to produce the edema should be avoided, the bowels should be regulated, massage and electricity may be employed, but drugs do not afford much hope of benefit.

The multiple neurotic cutaneous gangrene is not a *morbûs sui generis*, but merely a symptom-complex. In the majority of the cases some disturbance of the nervous system seems to be the cause of the symptoms. There is a form of gangrene closely related to this neurotic gangrene, but probably dependent upon vascular disease. Some forms of gangrene are the result of hysteria. The multiple neurotic gangrene is occasionally a sign of some organic nervous disease, as syringomyelia or peripheral neuritis. In some cases urticaria is associated with the gangrene. Cases occur, however, in which the multiple neurotic gangrene has the appearance of an independent neurosis.

It will be seen from this review that, while Cassirer's presentation of these curious diseases is excellent, it leaves many questions unanswered.

SPILLER.

RECHÉRCHES CLINIQUES ET THÉRAPEUTIQUES SUR L'ÉPILEPSIE, L'HYSTÉRIE ET L'IDIOTIE. PAR BOURNEVILLE. Avec la collaboration de M. BELLIN, BOYÉR, CHAPOTIN, DARDEL, KATZ, NOIR, J., PAUL-BONCOUR et POULARD. Vol. XX. Felix Alcan. Paris. 1900.

Bourneville has presented twenty of these incomparable studies to the medical profession. As in the preceding volumes, the history of the service during 1899 is given. Here the usual array of statistical tables is conspicuous by the absence of any such mode of presentation. The gymnastic and manual training ideas are carried out to much greater lengths than in preceding reports. These are well illustrated in these reports, and the methods advocated should find their way into our charitable institutions. Such methods of instruction, it is true, are not new; in the higher class of institutions in this country they have been widely followed, but in the more or less badly managed and politically overseen institutions with us systematic efforts in teaching the idiot are often wanting. In the second part of the book there are a number of suggestive and excellent studies made by Bourneville and his assistants. Thus Bourneville and Chapotin report on the use of eosinate of soda in the treatment of epilepsy: The study is a model of its kind. They show that the drug has some very interesting effects on the mucous membranes and on the skin, which resemble in large measure the effects of bromism. Its action on the epilepsy is nil. A similar type of study is presented by Bourneville on *sedum acre*. He finds this also of little avail. Other studies on trophic disturbances of the skin, spasmodic hemiplegia, hysteria, influence of alcohol on the production of idiocy and of epilepsy, etc., follow:

Some important observations relative to the thymus are of interest

in view of the rather unique ideas of Ohlmacher on the persistent thymus and its relations to epilepsy. Katz and Bourneville in 61 normal children found that the thymus was persistent in every case. In reports of 168 individuals examined it was persistent. Its absence in many cases of idiots, epileptics and imbeciles has been noted by Bourneville, the average percentage of absence in such cases being as high as 25 per cent. We are glad to see studies of this type, and trust that many more volumes may be added to this illustrious series.

JELLIFFE.

A TEXT BOOK OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE. By William G. Thompson, M.D., New York. Lea Brothers & Co., New York and Philadelphia, Publishers.

The author states in his preface that "the advent of a new century makes appropriate a comprehensive review of the present status of medical practice." He makes no claim to originality, but simply a statement of such facts and principles as have received clinical proof, and avoids those which have only a speculative basis. From his long experience in the best hospitals of New York City, and many years spent as a teacher of medicine, Dr. Thompson is well qualified to write authoritatively on the subject; and this volume reflects his own views on disease and methods of treatment. One thing that specially commends the work is the space and lucid description given to those diseases which are fairly common, and the citation of cases illustrative of the disease, these cases for the most part having been taken from those occurring in the practice of the author. The field of medicine has been described under nine heads. Infectious diseases, taking in also fevers of obscure origin, *e. g.*, febricula, Weil's disease, Malta fever, etc., and the infections common to man and animals. Under diphtheria the antitoxin treatment is fully described and cordially recommended. Diseases of the digestive system are well described, particular attention being given to diseases of the stomach and intestine. Diseases of the peritoneum, liver and pancreas are also described under this heading. Diseases of the spleen, lymphatic system and ductless glands are next taken up, the diseases of the spleen being accorded a very brief description, while those of the thyroid, thymus and adrenals come in for a more exhaustive one. Diseases of the vascular, respiratory and urinary systems follow. In chronic Bright's disease two forms are described, *viz.*, chronic parenchymatous and chronic interstitial nephritis. To the nervous system about 130 pages have been given, with a full, concise description of diseases of the nerves, diseases of the spinal cord, diseases of the brain, functional nervous disorders, and trophic and vasomotor disorders. Diseases of the muscular system comprise myositis and myotonia congenita. The last section takes up miscellaneous diseases, diseases due to parasites, and poisons and drug habits.

The work is specially adapted for the use of students and as a ready reference book for the general practitioner. The descriptions, as a rule, are clear and concise, and the treatment advised is that most approved at the present day. The volume contains about 1,000 pages.

ADAMS.